

	1802	Pre-Existing Vascular Access Devices (PVAD)
Nor-Cal EMS Policy & Procedure Manual		Treatment Guidelines
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Authority

Health and Safety Code Division 2.5, California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 9.

Definition

1. Pre-existing Vascular Access Device (PVAD): A PVAD is an indwelling catheter/device placed into the lower aspect of the superior vena cava to provide vascular access for those patients requiring long-term intravenous therapy or hemodialysis.
2. Central Chest Lines: Catheters that are tunneled subcutaneously into the subclavian vein from a point on the anterior chest wall that terminates into the lower Superior Vena Cava.
3. PICC Line or Mid-Line: Peripherally Inserted Central Catheter usually inserted into the lower Superior Vena Cava via the antecubital vein, basilic vein or cephalic vein.

Precautions

1. Consider the patient or reliable family member as a source of information about their lines and IV access catheters.
2. Contact base hospital physician prior to discontinuing pre-existing IV medications.
3. Use extreme caution when discontinuing an IV infusion containing chemotherapy to minimize exposure.
4. **Aspirate the contents of the line and discard before flushing.** Some medications (Dobutamine, narcotics, etc.) may cause a serious adverse reaction if flushed into the patient line, resulting in an unwanted bolus.
5. If any doubt with catheter/ PVAD establish peripheral IV access or IO.
6. If resistance is met when trying to inject, re-clamp catheter and do not use.
- 7.

Procedure

Central Chest and PICC/Mid-lines General Instructions

1. Wash hands thoroughly and/or cleanse with alcohol/hand sanitizer.
2. Don clean gloves.
3. **NEVER use a syringe smaller than 10 ml** for flushing or accessing PVADs.
4. Assure all air is purged from any line or syringe.
5. Use Chlorhexidine or Cleanse cap with three (3) Betadine swabs; allow 90 seconds drying if time allows. Follow with three (3) alcohol swabs and allow drying if time allows. Never blow on or wave a hand to facilitate drying.

Administering Medications:

- a. Aspirate line of contents and then flush line with 10 ml normal saline,
- b. Administer IV medication. All Central Catheter Lines shall be connected via a luer lock configuration to prevent inadvertent disconnection.
- c. Avoid using excessive pressure when injecting medication into the line to avoid rupturing the line.
- d. Flush well with 10 cc NS following each medication administered. Remember, speed of flush will determine speed of medication bolus; flush slowly if you want the medication to infuse slowly, flush rapidly if you want the medication to infuse rapidly.